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4/25/02

February 28, 2002

Our Reference: 9351-97

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

The Commissioner of Patents  
& Trademarks  
Washington, D.C.  
20231, U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

**Re: New U.S. Divisional Patent Application of  
United States Patent Application No. 09/592,950  
For: CATALYTIC HUMIDIFIER AND HEATER FOR THE FUEL  
STREAM OF A FUEL CELL  
Inventors: Xuesong Chen et al**

We are simultaneously filing herewith a divisional application of United States patent application serial number 09/592,950 filed on June 13, 2000. Please enter the following amendment in the divisional application.

**In the Specification:**

Please insert the following paragraph on page 1, line 4 as follows:

NIE. --The present application is a divisional of USSN 09/592,950 that was filed on June 13, 2000 (now pending).—

R 1.128 Please delete the passage from page 4, line 30 to page 6, line 13.

After page 8, line 5, please insert the following as two new paragraphs:

A' --The stack can comprise an air-breathing stack, including a plurality of channels extending through the fuel cell stack for permitting free flow of ambient air as the oxidant through the fuel cell stack, there being at least one channel for each fuel cell, wherein the catalytic reaction is mounted below the fuel cell stack. The catalytic converter is configured to receive air as an oxidant through the second inlet thereof in excess of the stoichiometric quantity of air required for combustion of fuel within the catalytic reaction, whereby heated and humidified air is discharged from the outlet of the catalytic reaction. The outlet of the catalytic reaction is mounted below the channels of the fuel cell stack,